THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A view will be taken in the matter after due consideration.

Discrimination in Reimbursement of Medical Claims in Air India

2927. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India medical department has received any complaints regarding discrimination in reimbursement of medical claim for eye operations under contributory medical scheme; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation was received for reimbursement of medical expenses for Myopia Correction. The claim was rejected as the same was not admissible under the Contributory Medical Benefit Scheme and Employees Benefit Scheme.

Reimburesement of Medical Expenses Under Contributory Medical Scheme of Air India

2928. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the rules for reimbursement of medical expenses for Karectomy Eye operation under the Contributory Medical Scheme of Air India;

(b) the number of applications considered for above reimbursement and those rejected in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998; and

(c) the reasons for each rejections of above claim, if any?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Medical expenses for photo Refractive Keratectomy for Myopia correction (Correction of eye sight only) are neither reimbursable under the Contributory Medical Benefits Scheme (CMBS) nor Emlpoyes Medical Benefits Scheme (EMBS) in Air India.

(b) and (c) Details are as under:—

Year	No. of application received for reimbursement	Passed	Rejected
1996	2	1	1
1997	NIL	—	—
1998	NIL	—	—

The claim passed related to Keratectomy done alongwith Viteresectomy and Tridectomy for retinal detachment and was s admissible under CMBS. The rejected claim related to Keratectomy as it was not admissible under CMBS and EMBS.

Opening of Post Offices, STD/PCO and Fax Booths in Assam

2929. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Punchayats in Assam which have demanded for Opening of post offices STD/PCO and Fax booths during the last one year;

(b) the total number of post offices, STD/PCO, Fax etc. opened in Assam during this period; and

(c) whether steps are being taken by Government to open the new post offices in the State; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) *Postal*:

No demand has been received from Panchayat for opening of Post Office during last one year.

Telecom:

No Panchayat has made a demand for opening of STD/PCO booths in the State of Assam during last one year. Faxes are allowed freely for private use without any licence fee.

(b) *Postal:*

Two Departmental Sub Post office & Eighteen Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices were opened. Similarly one Departmental Sub Post Office was upgraded to Head Post Office and one Extra Departmental Branch Post Office to Sub Post Office in Assam State during last one Year.

Telecom:

784 STD/ISD/PCOs have been opened in Assam during the last one year i.e. during 1997-98. Faxed are allowed freely for private use without any licence fee.

(c) *Postal*:

A target to open 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 50 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Assam State during the current year 1998-99 has been fixed. The opening of Post Offices in subject to fulfilment of norms and resources.

Telephone Connections to Doctors on Priority Basis

2930. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. have any policy to install telephone connections to the doctors on priority basis and the number of doctors who have registered their name since January 1997, till date at Trans-Yamuna Telephone exchange, Delhi;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not installing telephone connections to the doctors till date despite OB No. 112234935 of 19th December, 1997; and

(d) by when, this telephone connection would be installed and the action being taken by Government to provide telephone connections easily to the doctors; and in case no action is being taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doctors are registered under N-OYT Special category which has a separate quota for provision of Telephone Connections.

There are 178 registrants since January 1997 in Trans Yamuna Telephone Exchanges of MTNL, Delhi; details of which are as given below:

Laxmi Nagar Telephone Exchange	110
Shahdara Telephone Exchange	51
Yamuna Vihar Telephone Exchange	17
Total	178

(c) OB No. 112234935 dated 19.12.1997 is pending due to non-availability of under ground cable pairs in that particular area.

(d) Telephone Connections are freely available to Doctors in Delhi Telephones. However, Telephone Connections could not be provided immediately due to some pockets/areas being technically not feasible (TNF) due to non-availability of under ground cable pairs.

The laying of under ground cables is in progress vigrously and the pending Telephone Connections to these Doctors will be provided progressively by 30.9.1998.

Utilisation of Subscriber Loop Carriers and Racks

2931. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

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